

St. Olaf College OLE Core General Education Curriculum

Writing in the Major Requirement

Description:

A single course or a set of modules distributed across two or more courses that provide writing instruction and practice relevant to a specific major and build upon knowledge and skills developed in the "First-Year Experience" (especially "Writing and Rhetoric") and "Writing Across the Curriculum". As appropriate, this requirement engages students in multimodal writing, including visual and oral communication. At a minimum, half of this requirement must be at the 300-level.

Administrative Guideline: At least half this requirement must be at the 300-level.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Develop a research-driven or creative project.
2. Create original content or evaluate evidence or arguments.
3. Implement communication strategies appropriate to the field.
4. Engage in writing as a systematic, iterative process.

Course Guidelines:

1. Develop a research-driven or creative project.

The type of project will vary by discipline, and each department will define what constitutes "research-driven" or "creative" for their major. For example, a studio art major might write museum notes for their senior show, a political science student might write a literature review about research on public opinion toward immigrants, and a science major might write a scientific journal article.

2. Create original content or evaluate evidence or arguments.

Students in Writing in the Major courses will either create original content or evaluate evidence or arguments to make a case. These students will be working at a higher level, including more independently, than students in Writing and Rhetoric or Writing Across the Curriculum courses.

3. Implement communication strategies appropriate to the field.

Students will consider the audience and purpose of their writing within the course structure, and write for an appropriate audience in a form that is relevant to the field. Writing in the Major students will design and implement communication strategies that are appropriate in the field. For example, students will select tone, evidence, language, technology and communication style to engage the intended audience.

4. Engage in writing as a systematic, iterative process.

The process of writing is very similar in all three GE writing courses. Students will follow a writing process that involves generating drafts, responding to and providing feedback, revising, editing and proofreading. The sophistication with which students do this in Writing in the Major courses will be higher than in the other two courses.